the HEROINE Addict

No. 3
Feb., 1975

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We cannot guarantee to publish unsolicited material of course, and it will not be returned unless accompanied by sufficient return packaging and postage.

Letters to the editor are always welcome and considered for publication.

Here she is:
CHEFAC!

CLUB NEWS on page 7

PREEE-SENTING...

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ILLUSTRATIONS IN THIS ISSUE:

Ted Delorme: pages 8, 9, 15
Tom Luth: pages 3↓, 13, 20, 30, 31
Tom O'Reilly: pages 18-19, 21, 28, 33, 34
Bob Rodi: pages 24, 25, 29
Carol Strickland: pages 2↑, 10, 27
Scott Taylor: pages 2↓, 17→
Mercy Van Vlack: cover; pages 3↑, 4-6, 7, 12, 17←, 22, 26
Roy Wilson: page 2↓

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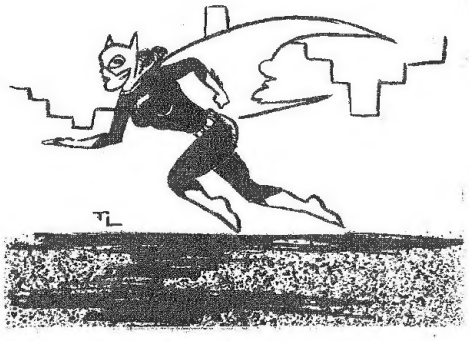

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JUSTICE LADIES of AMERICA

Wonder Woman

THE **AMAZING AMAZON** WAS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THE **JLA**. SHE APPEARED IN THEIR ORIGIN ISSUE (**BRAVE & BOLD 27**) WHERE SHE LENT HER VAST RESOURCES OF POWERS TO CONQUERING **STARRO**. SHE WAS WITH THE **JLA** WHEN THEY GOT THEIR OWN MAGAZINE, AND SHE REMAINED UNTIL **JLA #66** THEN DISAPPEARED BECAUSE IN **WONDER WOMAN #179**, SHE LOST HER AMAZON POWERS AND BECAME **DIANA PRINCE**, NOT-SO-PLAIN AND SIMPLE. **DIANA** APPEAED AGAIN IN **#69** EXPLAINING THE CHANGE AND RESIGNED. HOWEVER, THE **JLA** ers WOULDN'T ACCEPT IT AND PUT HER ON A LEAVE OF ABSENCE. DURING THIS TIME SHE GUEST-STARRED IN **JLA #71** AND **#100-103** WHERE OF THE 30PLUS **JLA** ers IT WAS **DI** WHO FINALLY DISABLED THE EVIL **IRON HAND** IN **WONDER WOMAN #201** SHE FINALLY REGAINED HER AMAZON POWERS BUT LOST HER MEMORY. KNOWING THIS, SHE DECLINED **JLA** MEMBERSHIP WHEN THE **JLA** ers ASKED HER TO END HER LEAVE IN **WONDER WOMAN #212**, BUT SHE DID AGREE TO REJOIN IF THE **JLA** WOULD MONITOR HER NEXT TWELVE CASES AND APPROVE HER FOR MEMBERSHIP. THIS MONITORING IS STILL GOING ON IN **WONDER WOMAN** COMICS.

Black Canary

ORIGINALLY A MEMBER OF THE **JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA**, THE **EARTH II** GROUP SHE JOINED IN **ALL-STAR #41**. SHE REMAINED ACTIVE IN THAT GROUP UNTIL IT'S CANCELLATION AND RETURNED WITH IT IN **JLA #21**. BEAUTIFUL AND DEADLY, THE MARTIAL ARTS MASTER WAS A FAVORITE IN THE ANNUAL **JSA-JLA** TEAM-UPS UNTIL THE END OF **JLA #74** WHEN HER HUSBAND WAS KILLED, SO SHE INVITED HERSELF TO **EARTH I**. THE **JLA** ers WERE NOT SURE WHETHER TO ADMIT HER OR NOT, BUT **BC** PROMPTLY STOPPED THE ARGUEMENT (**JLA 75**) WITH A STRANGE SONIC POWER SHE GAINED, WHICH SHE NOW CONTROLS THROUGH HER VOICE (**JLA #110**). SHE WAS OFFICIALLY INTRODUCED AS THE **JLA**'S NEWEST ("PRETTIEST") MEMBER **JLA #78**. A.K.A.-- **DINAH DRAKE LANCE**

*JLAdies part one #

Zatanna IS NOT A JLA MEMBER, BUT SHE IS GOOD FRIENDS WITH THEM ALL. IN JLA #31 SHE FOUND HER LONG-LOST FATHER WITH THE HELP OF A CONJURED UP JLA. SINCE THEN, SHE GUEST-STARRED IN JLA #87 AND 103. LOVELY AND AMUSING, SHE EARNS HER LIVING IN A NIGHT CLUB MAGIC ACT. HER MAGIC IS PERFORMED BY SAYING THE SPELL BACKWARDS

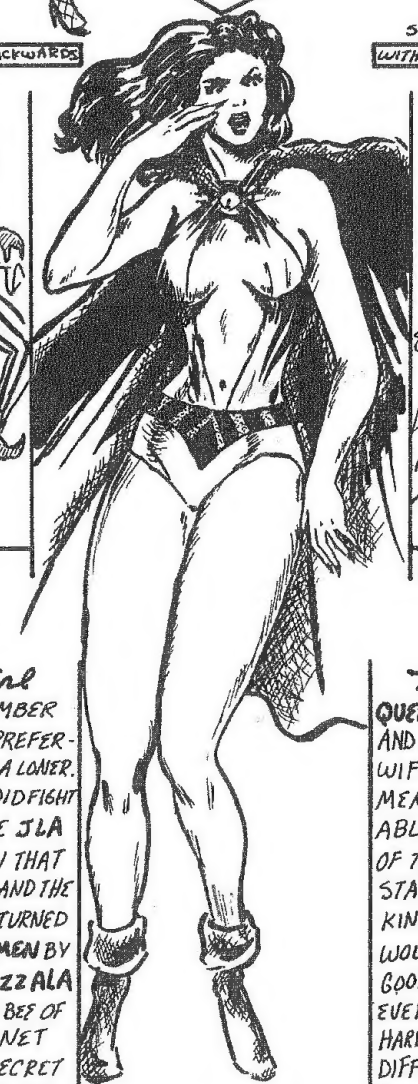
Phantom Lady ONE OF THE QUALITY STARS OF THE GOLDEN AGE, SHE RESURFACED IN JLA #107-108 AS ONE OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF EARTH-X. SHE TEAMED UP WITH SUPERMAN, GREEN ARROW, AND DOLL MAN TO BATTLE NAZIISM WITH HER BLACK BEAM AND MARTIAL ARTS SKILLS

SANDRA KNIGHT

SHIERRA HALL

Hawkgirl IS ALSO A NON-MEMBER - FIRST APPEARING IN JLA #31 WHEN HER HUSBAND HAWKMAN WAS ADMITTED. ATOM SAID ONLY ONE JLAer IS ACCEPTED AT A TIME, BUT THE LEAGUE MADE NO ATTEMPT TO INDUCT HAWKGIRL AFTER THAT. GUEST-STARRED WITH HAWKMAN IN JLA #52, #53, #72. LEFT EARTH WITH HAWKMAN IN JLA #109

THE **Harlequin** A VILLAINESS WHO JOINED THE JSA TO DEFEAT THE INJUSTICE SOCIETY IN ALL-STAR #41 JUNE-JULY 1948 HAS HYPNOTIC GLASSES.

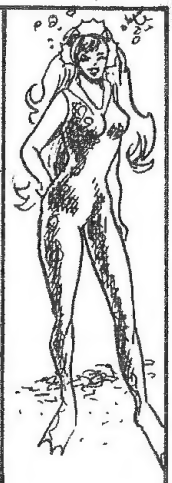


Supergirl LINDA LEE DANVERS OR KARA ZOR-EL FOUGHT BESIDE THE JLA AGAINST AN ALIEN CONTROLLED SUPERMAN IN ADVENTURE #423 NOT A JLAer AS SHE IS STILL AN HONORARY LEGIONNAIRESS

Batgirl A NON-MEMBER BY CHOICE, PREFERRING TO BE A LONER. BUT SHE DID FIGHT BESIDE THE JLA IN #60. IN THAT ISSUE SHE AND THE JLA WERE TURNED INTO BEE-MEN BY QUEEN ZAZZALA (THE QUEEN BEE OF THE PLANET KORLL) SECRET IDENTITY - SEN. BARBARA GORDON

JLAdies part-two

Mera QUEEN of ATLANTIS AND AQUAMAN'S WIFE, NOT A JLA MEMBER, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE ONE OF THE TWO MUST STAY TO RULE THE KINGDOM. SHE WOULD MAKE A GOOD MEMBER, HOWEVER, BECAUSE HER HARD-WATER POWER DIFFERS FROM AQUAMAN'S. IN JLA #88.



JLAdies···VILLAINESSES

★ JLAdies part-three ★

Allura
THE WITCH-DEMON WHO POSSESSED THE MAGICIAN **ZATARA'S** BODY AND FOUGHT **ZATANNA** AND HER MAKESHIFT **JLA** IN **JLA #51**

Gem Girl- BLACK SPHERES FROM A NEGATIVE UNIVERSE GAVE HER NEAR-INVULNERABILITY & **WONDER WOMAN** BATTLED HER FOR TWO ISSUES **JLA #55-56**

Circe
THE ANCIENT GREEK SORCERESS TURNED **SPEEDY** INTO A CENTAUR BUT WAS DEFEATED BY **ZATANNA**'S MAGIC IN **JLA #102.**

Huntress
A MEMBER OF THE **INJUSTICE SOCIETY** WHO FOUGHT THE **JSA** IN **ALL-STAR COMICS #41**, JUNE 1948.

Poison Ivy- THIS SULTRY VILLAINESS MATCHED WITS WITH **GREEN LANTERN** AND **AQUA MAN** IN **JLA #111**. IN **INJUSTICE GANG OF THE WORLD**

Queen Bee
QUEEN ZAZZALA OF **KORU**, THE **JLA**'S MOST FAMOUS FEMALE FOE. IN **#23**, AND MOST RECENTLY **ACTION COMICS #443**

Queen of Clubs
WITH "STELLARATION" POWERS, THIS **ROYAL FLUSH GANG** MEMBER BATTLED **WONDER WOMAN** AND THE **JLA #47** and **#54**.

Silver Sorceress THIS ALIEN GAL RESEMBLED QUITE INTENTIONALLY MARVEL'S **SCARLET WITCH** (RIGHT DOWN TO THE HEX POWER!) **ZATANNA** FOE **JLA #87**

Superwoman
A MEMBER OF **EARTH II**'S **CRIME SYNDICATE OF AMERICA**. POSSESSOR OF AMAZON-LIKE SKILLS. FOUGHT **WONDER WOMAN** & **BLACK CANARY** IN **JLA #29** & **#30**

SPECIAL THANKS TO BOB RODI (script) AND MARK GRUENWALD (TRIVIA) Mercy, Inc.

CLUB NEWS!

And Other Pertinent Points → by Al Tanner, editor

Hey, look to the left. "*Club* News," get it? ...And some people used to think I had no sense of humor. (Now they'll have to admit that I've *proven* it.) But let's move on to more important things.

Chefac was a big hit (no pun intended this time) in THA #2. Many of you have written to say you think it's a great idea for the CHFC to have an appropriate characterized trade-mark, and Chefac has proven to be an overwhelmingly popular one. So with artist Mercy Van Vlack's creative cooperation, we'll keep our little heroine hostess around for a while.

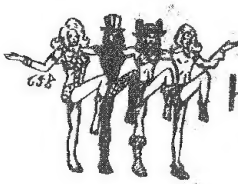
Many of you have been asking about the progress of our promised AHPA fiction zine. I'm glad to be able to say that the first issue, tentatively titled THE ADVENTURESS #1, is now in production. These specialized fiction publications will be our answer to the comics industry's apathy where adventure heroine stories are concerned, and I believe you CHFC members will be happy to see what we will be producing for you.

The new AHPA fiction features which I personally know the most about at this point are those involving Blue Jay and Chickadee, a pair of costumed heroines of whom Mercy and I have been the cocreators. I've written a story about B.J. and Chickie which is going to be fully (and I'm sure delightfully!) illustrated by Mercy, and you'll also see another of their adventures in a story which Mercy is developing separately in the comic strip format. We're shooting for glamorous characters, constant action, plenty of suspense, and a bit of humor to boot. Sound like a good recipe?

TA #1 will also feature a strip written and drawn by Chris Padovano, a very promising new creative talent. I think you'll love his kung-fu heroine Chang-Chick, who is even more entertaining than the name promises! Ted Delorme is working with an intriguing character called Moth; Bob Rodi is producing a science fiction heroine strip; Carol Strickland has an illustrated sword-and-sorcery yarn in the works featuring twin heroines as only Strick can present them; Joanna Moore is working on some stories which I think have great potential; and...Well, you get the idea. We'll be doing our best to satisfy your appetite (which the comics clearly aren't doing) for action stories highlighting adventure heroines. And we know you want illos; believe me, you'll *get illos*...by some outstanding AHPA artists!

Other AHPA projects are also in the planning stage or under consideration; so many that I can only allude briefly to them here. Ted Delorme and Roy Wilson are working toward the production of an AHPA Artist's Handbook, which will consist of bi-monthly illustrated lessons and pointers for both beginners and experienced artists in the panel art field - with emphasis, of course, on the adventure heroine and her story illustration. How would you like to receive some full-size comics-heroine *posters*, in black-and-white and/or color, created by some of your favorite AHPA artists? Stick with us, and such unique CHFC bonuses will eventually be coming your way! ...And we have a *very* special "extra" publication now in preliminary production which it's too early to tell you about, but which I know will stun you comics heroines fans, and will also hit comics fandom in general like a bolt out of the blue!

Our CHFC letterzine idea is still under consideration; we haven't made a definite decision as yet. So if you haven't done *(Continued on page 23)*



the heroine revue

The Women in Batman's Life

and why they never stay around

by Scott Gibson

Without question, the Batman has been involved with more women during his career than any other hero around. He's even been engaged twice! Yet, pinning down the single most important or significant woman in his life would be a difficult task. And, no matter what conclusion you finally arrive at, there would be a lot of debate from other fans.

Anyone can tell you that Superman's girl friend is Lois Lane. That romance has been blossoming for thirty-five years. Yet, for Batman (who has been around almost as long as The Man of Steel), there have been about as many women as years! But, why don't they endure? What is it in the chemistry of the Batman series that won't allow for a regular female character? We'll attempt to find out by scrutinizing all of the women who have figured prominently in the Caped Crusader's career.

Julie Madison was the first woman to enter the Batman's life; she even preceded Robin! She and Bruce Wayne first met in DETECTIVE COMICS #31. They fell in love and became engaged. However, when Dick Grayson entered the series, National Periodicals evidently decided that there wasn't room for the both of them in Batman's life, because Julie was swiftly eased out. Probably her most famous role came in DETECTIVE #40, when she became a movie actress. Some of her fellow film workers were being murdered--Julie, herself was marked for death--but Batman and Robin arrived in time to save her and catch the culprit. Evidently, the love between Bruce and Julie had begun to disentegrate by this time, because the story ended with her sighing and wishing that Bruce was more dashing. The couple would soon separate, and in BATMAN #5, Bruce would find a new love interest in wealthy Linda Page.

Linda, tired of being a frivolous socialite, turned to nursing in hopes of being a service to the world. I personally found her more interesting and much nicer than Julie Madison, but evidently Bruce didn't think so, because his relationship with her was brief and not as serious as the one with Julie. Perhaps Batman's creators decided that Linda was too humdrum for an exciting playboy/crimefighter.

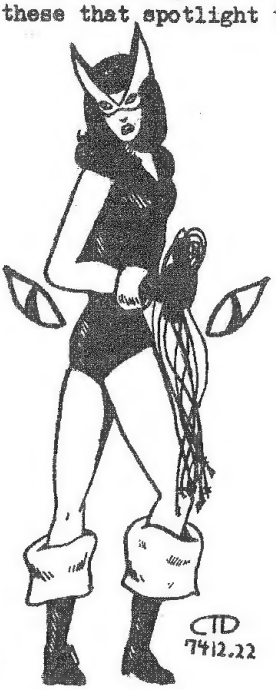
Before Batman met Linda, he became entangled with the only woman who would endure from those early days clear up into the present time: The Catwoman! This villainess first prowled in the pages of BATMAN #1 under the guise of The Cat, a non-costumed jewelry thief. Some genius must have seen a spark of potential in that small time criminal and provided her with an entourage of cat-gimmicks, squaring her off against the Dynamic Duo as a terrific new super-villain(ess).

With the exception of only the Joker and the Penguin, Catwoman has battled the Batman more times than any other of his foes. And she's probably been seen in more DC magazines than any other evil-doer. Even though she was defeated by Batman and Robin in BATMAN #1, Catwoman sprang back in the very next issue, in a story which also featured the Joker. Strangely enough, she returned in #3, as well! BATMAN COMICS was her major stomping ground: She appeared in DETECTIVE COMICS a mere three times, and only once in WORLD'S FINEST. And, in that WF tale, it turned out to be the little imp from another dimension, Bat-Mite, disguised as the Catwoman.

Few readers know that the Catwoman was at one time a heroine. That's right--for a period of a year or so, she fought alongside Batman, stopping crime and catching crooks. In BATMAN #62, while executing a robbery, the Catwoman was struck by a piece of rubble which fell from a crumbling, condemned building. This jolted her memory, and she was able to divulge her past and her true name to Batman and Robin for the first time. Her name was Selina Kyle; she had been an airline stewardess until a plane crash which resulted in head injuries gave her amnesia. The injuries also turned her into a criminal. Batman and Commissioner Gordon decided not to hold Selina responsible for her actions while she was an amnesiac if she would aid in capturing the rest of her old gang. This she eventually does, and the story ends with Ms. Kyle handing over her Catwoman costume to the police, telling them that she is retiring.

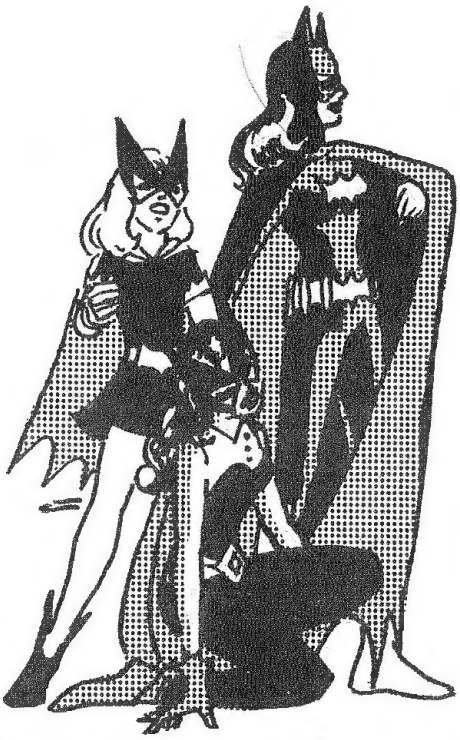
But the Feline Fury would return in BATMAN #'s 65 and 69 as Catwoman--Police Operative; thus making her the first female crimefighter to team with the Batman. But you can't teach an old dog-uh, cat new tricks; and Selina reverted to her criminal ways in DETECTIVE #203. Sometime later (after BATMAN #89, I believe), Catwoman inexplicably vanished from comics for several years. It wasn't until BATMAN #197 (over a hundred issue absence!) that she returned, decked out in a totally new costume, which was obviously a close copy of the outfit which Julie Newmar (the television Catwoman on the ABC-TV Batman series) wore. In fact, if not for the television show and the subsequent search for exciting criminals to battle Batman and Robin in live action, the Catwoman might have remained in limbo for a much longer time. This new outfit for her would last for only one further appearance, in BATMAN #201. After that, she would don her current blue/red garb. Catwoman carried on a sizzling romance with Batman for many years, loathing, yet loving him. However, in recent appearances, she seems to have given up on that romance. She has become a women's libber of sorts--even to the point of enlisting a back-up squad of female furies to best the Caped Crusader in BATMAN #210.

As I mentioned earlier, Catwoman has appeared in a wide variety of titles, including a two-part story in LOIS LANE #70-#71. She also served as villainess in a Black Canary feature in ADVENTURE #419. But her most versatile role came when she battled with and later teamed with Diana Prince in WONDER WOMAN #'s 201 and 202, a melange of science-fiction and sword 'n sorcery. It's stories such as these that spotlight the Catwoman's versatility and prompt me to ask, why, if the Joker is receiving his own book, can't the Catwoman get one, as well? While the Joker is a malevolent and evil character through and through, the Princess of Plunder is a much more diverse person--she's unpredictable--she can be good, as well as evil. Whereas Joker may well become tiresome before long, I hardly think that Catwoman is nearly as likely to suffer that fate.



One of the biggest rip-offs perpetrated on the Superman legend was the creation of Vicki Vale in BATMAN #49. A society photographer and reporter, Vicki lacked both originality and character. She was nothing but a red-haired extension of Lois Lane, and was probably created primarily to keep Ms. Lane company in WORLD'S FINEST, so Batman would have insight into Superman's nosy-girl-reporter problems. Nonetheless, Vicki hung on for many years, not departing the Batman scene until just prior to his 'New-Look' change in 1964.

Then came Batwoman. She happened along in DETECTIVE #233 as Kathy Kane, ex-circus performer and heiress to a vast fortune from her uncle. Kathy's burning desire was to be a crimefighter.



Naturally, her circus-acrobatic skills were a strong and hardy foundation on which to build a career as a super-heroine. Kathy built a house over a series of old, abandoned mine-tunnels which she converted to a bat-cave similar to Batman's. Her derring-do included a hyped-up bat-cycle and shoulder bag (a la utility belt). Her costume was quite odd--I can only guess that the editor wanted Batwoman to add color to the strip. Why else would she wear a brilliantly hued scarlet and yellow outfit? It added color, all right, but she certainly didn't have that 'omen of darkness' look that Batman has. But, despite the rather innappropriate costume, 'The Batwoman Legend' started out very well, with a lot of fine, realistic touches. For starters, Batman greeted this new, mysterious crimefighter with a wary eye; he recognized her inexperience and attempted to abort her career in the fear that her overconfidence would land her in trouble. Oddly enough, in this first story, it never did. Which was nice--Batwoman burst upon the comics scene in total triumph; she saved Batman and Robin's lives three times running, solved the case and retired triumphant. However, Batman did uncover her secret identity as Kathy Kane and convinced her to give up her crimefighting career. Thus, her first case was a veritable plethora of credibility. It was well-written, and the events followed in a natural progression of realism.

Naturally, Batwoman was destined to return. This was in BATMAN #105. Sadly, the intelligence that had presented itself in Batwoman's first case was heretofore diluted with distorted, supposedly "feminine" instincts; Kathy now let her emotions rule, instead of common sense. Most further stories saw the Dynamic Duo having to rescue a perpetually bumbling lady crimefighter, or else Batwoman was trying to unmask Batman, and vying with Vicki Vale for his attention.

Batwoman remained a part of Batman's life until a short while after his "New Look" revamping in 1964. She appeared in over 45 stories in all. She (like Vicki Vale, the original Bat-Girl, Bat-Hound and Bat-Mite) probably disappeared because she was simply a part of a huge pile of bat-accessories that had accumulated in the series. When Julius Schwartz took over the editorship of these books, he probably discarded her because she was, or <u>had become</u> little more than a useless hanger-on. Most of her originality had been exploited in a series of imaginary adventures and silly sci-fi epics.

It was only natural that, if Batman had a girlfriend, then Robin should find one, too. So was born Bat-Girl I, in BATMAN #139. She was secretly Betty Kane, Kathy Kane's niece. Her first adventure was not a particularly good one; it looked like little more than a hasty effort to add yet another member to the steadily-growing bat-clan. Unlike her aunt, Betty had had no real training to qualify as a crimefighter. Bat-Girl simply emerged full-blown from a childish whim on Betty's part. And this first adventure proved it, when she got herself captured by the villains (she was out crimefighting against strict orders from Batwoman) and had to be rescued by Batman and Co. Bat-Girl had only 7 adventures before slipping into limbo. She may have had potential, but it was never explored; like her aunt, she was often more hindrance than help to the Dynamic

Duo. Credibility was never her forte. After Bat-Girl and Batwoman faded from the scene, so did any further lasting relationships for Batman and the opposite sex. For awhile, women came and went in an endless procession.

A delightful one-shot appearance by Bruce Wayne's Aunt Agatha in BATMAN #89 gave us some insight into Bruce's family. The elderly woman arrived to visit Bruce and Dick and wound up deeply involved in one of their cases. In a truly unique twist ending, Aunt Agatha disguised herself as the Joker to save Batman and Robin's lives! You couldn't call the story realistic, but it was fun.

For awhile, it looked as though Batman had found true love in policewoman Patricia Powell, daughter of a Gotham City detective, who first appeared in BM #165. Actually, it was Bruce Wayne that Pat liked. This fact she confessed to Batman while they were working on a case. He attempted to arrange a meeting between his alter-ego and Pat, but was continually thwarted. Ms. Powell and the Gotham Goliath worked together again in BM #166, but even that story ended before Patricia could meet Bruce. No romance developed, probably due to lack of reader interest. Too bad, because Pat was a capable and clever woman, who might have been a real asset to the series.

Kaye Daye, mystery novelist, entered Batman's life when he joined a group of detectives called the Mystery Analysts in BATMAN #164; though the two worked together many times, they were never more than close friends. Most recently, Ms. Daye was seen in SUPERMAN, where it was divulged that she is the aunt of Steve Lombard, Clark Kent's 'friendly enemy.'

In DETECTIVE #328, Dick Grayson's Aunt Harriet came to live at Wayne Manor. She was probably added to the comic book only because the BATMAN TV series needed a regular female character, for Harriet received much more exposure on TV than in the magazines. She generally made only one-or-two panel appearances in occasional stories. After the television series was cancelled, there was no longer a need for her in the comics. Readers were told she moved out of Wayne Manor when Dick started college, but she hadn't been seen in the magazines for quite awhile before then.

Another one-shot was Marcia Monroe, a fiery redhead to whom Batman became engaged in BRAVE & BOLD #64. However, Marcia broke off the engagement abruptly, and turned to a life of crime as the Queen Bee. Later, she became deeply entangled in a criminal syndicate which Batman was attempting to smash, so they were reunited long enough for Marcia to save the Caped Crusader's life and help him smash the crime cartel. But the rift between them was never repaired. Queen Bee is still wanted by the law for her crimes, but Marcia has never been caught.

On the heels of Queen Bee came Poison Ivy, another villainess who fell in love with Batman. The Caped Crusader fought her twice; in BM's #181 and 183. Of late, she has joined the notorious 100 and battled the Thorn. Following her defeat there, she joined the Injustice Gang of the World in JUSTICE LEAGUE #111. Both Ivy and Queen Bee are exceptionally fine villainesses, even though they were born during the "camp craze," and they deserve further exposure in Batman stories.

I hesitate to include Barbara (Batgirl II) Gordon in this article. Even though she originated in the Batman story in DETECTIVE #359 and her first subsequent adventures involved the Dynamic Duo, Batgirl is quite independent of her male counterpart, and has not even figured into his life at all for several years now. She enjoys her own crimefighting career independently of Batman's, and there has never been a serious romantic entanglement between them (You nit-pickers who recall BRAVE & BOLD #78, I said "serious romantic entanglement!").

"The girl most likely to marry Batman" was Ginny Jenkins. She burst upon the scene in DETECTIVE #380 claiming to be Mrs. Bruce Wayne. Actually, the irrepressable Ginny did it only to protect Bruce from her brother, who wanted to kill him. Spunky Ms. Jenkins played an active part in the story and wound up

being injured herself. She was quick-witted and impulsive, not to mention slightly confused. Ginny attempted to help set things right, but being largely uninformed, she blundered into some perilous situations. She seemed a likely candidate for Bruce's new girlfriend (indeed; it was stressed in her first appearance that she had long had a crush on him), but when Ginny returned a year later in TEC #391, she had a new boyfriend. Again, she was the humorous, confused gal, but now, her entanglements with the Batman were strictly platonic. This, of course, limited further plots for her rather severely, and she's not appeared since.

In BATMAN #208, we were introduced to Mrs. Chilton, the elderly woman who helped raise young Bruce Wayne. Ironically, it was her own son Joe (he changed his last name to 'Chill') who had killed Bruce's parents in the first place. #208 was Mrs. Chilton's only appearance, which suprised me somewhat, since her odd entanglement with the Batman legend would seem to command a variety of story possibilities. Mrs. C., by the way, is the only woman (other than the female members of the JUSTICE LEAGUE) who knows that Bruce is Batman. Bruce himself isn't even aware that the old lady knows his secret; she simply figured it out all by herself.

Bruce's butler Alfred has a niece named Daphne Pennyworth. She first "made the scene" in BM #216. She returned in #227 in a gothic chiller, but neither story ever presented her as a potential love-interest for Batman. She wasn't even a very interesting character.

Vicki Vale was reincarnated in BM #220, when platinum-tressed Marla Manning, news reporter, entered Bruce's life. She has made several subsequent appearances, never playing a major role in any story, but always managing to add some amount of vibrant quality whenever she shows up. Fortunately, she hasn't been forced into a Lois Lane-ish kind of personality, and thus, unlike Vicki, Marla is both entertaining and intelligent. For awhile, she was a friend of Bruce's, but of late, she has become disgusted with his playboy ways, and now favors Batman.

Talia, the daughter of The Demon, appeared first in TEC #411--but the Talia there was a far cry from the infamous, cold-hearted beauty we know today. There, she was a shy, wispy innocent-type. But, it wasn't long before the cruel, evil side of her surfaced. Most recently, readers witnessed her demise in DETECTIVE #444, but I cannot bring myself to believe that she is really dead. I have a feeling that we'll see Talia turn up very much alive before long. She brought a refreshingly new, "adult-type" image to the BATMAN books, and I don't think Julius Schwartz can keep her dead. When the Catwoman abandoned her romance with Batman, Talia stepped in to fill that void; the 'forbidden-love-because-we-are-on-opposite-sides-of-the-law' routine.

Ironically, in BM #243, Batman enlisted the aid of ski champ Molly Post to defeat Talia and her father. Molly, a beautiful, spirited, athletic, talented, exciting, vibrant gal, returned in #244, performing some pretty spectacular stunts. In case it isn't obvious, I think that Molly is really fine. In fact, I believe she should be Batman's steady lady. She participated in these two stories without detracting from the Caped Crusader any; and she's certainly as feasible a heroine as any other. She embodies a cool maturity and lacks the 'little girl crush' that most women in Batman's life seem to have.

It appears that only villainesses sustain any staying-power in the Batman series, probably because they can love the Caped Crusader, but may not marry him. The "good" girls Batman encounters are available for matrimony-a real no-no, since our hero couldn't possibly survive a marriage, at least not "sales-wise."

Important P.S: Last ish, I neglected to thank artist TED DELORME for supplying me with that eye-popping logo at the top of my column, so let me take these last few lines to express my deep gratitude to him: Thanks a heap, Ted!

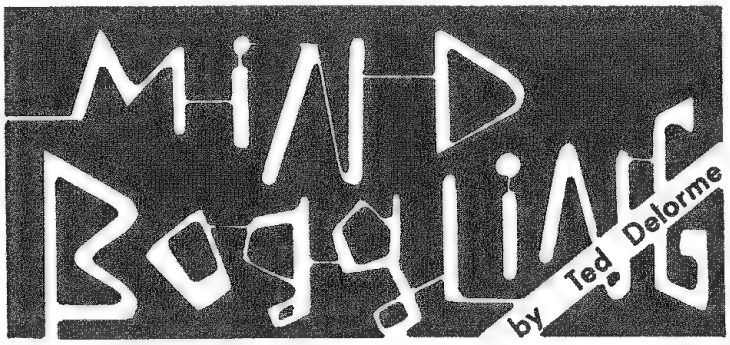
Vault Of Villainesses

BY DWAYNE BEST

Star Sapphire! "Who can forget the sky-blazing battles between Green Lantern and the mystery girl who named herself after that scintillating stone?" to quote Lois Lane in Superman 261. Motivated by an obsessive love for the Emerald Crusader, Star Sapphire has appeared five times (Green Lantern 16,26,41,73&74, and Superman 261) and will undoubtedly appear again. When not attired in her pink, purple, and white costume, she is known as Carol Ferris, owner of the Ferris Aircraft Company and girlfriend of Green Lantern. As Carol Ferris, she knows nothing about her Star Sapphire identity, and vice versa. The only thing the two have in common is their love for Green Lantern, Carol's being of a far more gentle nature than Star Sapphire's.

Carol Ferris was given the costume and the gem, which gave her the powers of flight and mind-over-matter, by a group of warrior women who wanted to make her their queen. These women, from the planet Zamaron, used a telepathic force beam to cause her to defeat Green Lantern, but the beam was not strong enough to suppress the love Carol had for Green Lantern, and she was defeated, reverting back to Carol Ferris. Three times after that she has appeared to force Green Lantern to marry her. She once stopped Sinestro from killing her lover, and when an odd delusion caused her to believe that Superman had killed Green Lantern, she fought the Kryptonian to avenge the murder. This delusion raises the question of Carol Ferris' sanity. We know that Green Lantern told her that she was Star Sapphire, but she has seemingly blocked this from her mind. Perhaps she will undergo psychiatric care in the future which will again uncover her Star Sapphire personality. If she could learn to accept and control it, we could even have another super heroine on our hands. If not, perhaps she would be eviller than ever, and become jealous of Black Canary and Wonder Woman (GL's female colleagues in the JLA) or even Katma Tui (the lady in the Green Lantern Corps), for no logical reason. Interesting, no?

P.S. - There was another Star Sapphire at DC during the Golden Age. Her costume was slightly similar to the present-day Star Sapphire's, in purple and yellow, with net stockings like Black Canary's. She was the only inhabitant of a small planet that was drawing away the Earth's oxygen for no apparent reason. In the course of this villainy she encountered the Flash, who defeated her. (This story was reprinted in the Giant Flash Annual #1)



Rumors have been going around that I'm a fanatic because I liked Liberty Belle and the Wonder Woman movie, whereas other THA writers found fault with both. And you're all probably wondering just what kind of heroine I don't like, aren't you? No? Well, I'll tell you anyway!

There's this one heroine whom everyone but me seems to adore, our editor and at least two of our columnists included. Shanna, the She-....Well, you know what she is. How does anyone go for that stuff? She's against violence, and you'd better be too, or her pets will take a few chunks out of your legs. She doesn't like society, so she runs away and hides from it. And when she was originally presented, she was on the same "all-men-are-evil" trip the Kanigher/Estrada Wonder Woman exemplified. No offense to my favorite author, Steve Gerber, but Shanna is a cowardly, schizophrenic, misanthrope. So there!

And as long as we're getting insulting, let's chastise some other deserving supergals. The aforementioned Kanigher version of the new/old Amazon Princess stanked real bad, didn't it? Besides hating men as a personal philosophy, every script seemed to center around that same idea: Some terrible men would menace a group of the local pure, kind, female paragons of niceness (Are there any of those left around? I've never seen any), and Wonder Woman and a few Amazons pay a visit to punch out the big bad mans. Aw, ain't that sickening? Now multiply that by two (stories per issue) plus eight (Kanigher-edited issues), and you won't be able to eat for a week.

Ric Estrada, who pencilled the above trash, hasn't improved much with his Devilina strip in the ATLAS 75¢ mag of the same name. The Exorcist fad died down months ago, but comics still continue to spout new demons, devils, and demi-gods. At least Devilina's origin tale makes a mention of the Biblical battle between Lucifer and God's Angels (the score was Angels: 1, Devils: 0). But if the premise of God (any god) creating Lucifer is used, then how in Crom's name does Estrada devise a human-looking mother for Satan & Sis?! I don't get it.

Keeping with the subject of gods and devils, who is that loony who's been masquerading as Aphrodite in Wonder Woman for so many years? It can't be the real Aphrodite, because she sure isn't any Goddess of Love! Because of one love affair that plopped (no plug intended!) on her thirty years ago, she has forbidden an entire race from settling down and raising a family like a good little race. Think about it. That bugs me to no end. Like somebody said (the name escapes me), "You no play-a the game, you no make-a the rules." You'd expect more from a deity. And do you really believe all those Amazons are thrilled with the idea? Apparently not, since Amazon children are occasionally shown in Paradise Island stories. I don't want to sound like a revolutionary, but what that Amazon Republic needs is a nice, quiet rebellion. The supposed "Paradise" is a tyrannical society!

Other real bombs include Lois Lane, Satana, Lilith (Drac's daughter), Vampirella, The Scarlet Witch, Sue Richards, and others too numerous and boring to mention or even remember. Now, of course a lot of you out there will disagree with me, and hopefully, you'll write to say why. If anyone can convince me that I'm unjustly slandering any of the above ladies, I'll give you equal time in this column in a future issue. Fair enough? Then write! The address is:

Ted Delorme
c/o Institute for Dilithium Conservation
977 Mt. Vernon Dr.
Charleston, SC 29412

The keepers are permitting letters, but no packages containing sharp objects.

By the way, welcome to 1975, and to '74 and the above-mentioned characters: "Good riddance!"

Heroine Oddities

* The stories in TEEN TITANS #5-7 might well have been subtitled "The Mystery of the Missing Bracelets." Wonder Girl did most of her crime-fighting in these issues without her wrist-bands. Now, as most WONDER WOMAN fans know, all Amazons are forbidden to remove these bracelets- in one Wonder Woman tale, the Amazing Amazon was forced to take hers off, and it made her go mad! Of course, it was revealed a few years later that Wonder Girl is not an Amazon, so she probably wouldn't be affected by removing the bracelets. Nonetheless, this was not yet known in TT #5-7, so the missing bracelets have to go on record as an artistic goof...

* Who is it at Marvel Comics that has a penchant for red hair? Someone obviously does--there are more red-tressed super-heroines at Marvel than there are blonds or brunettes. Count 'em: Marvel Girl, Medusa, Shanna, Crystal, Red Sonja, Thundra, etc. etc. And Black Widow, Wasp and Scarlet Witch seem to have a reddish-auburn tint in theirs...

An Article You'll Value:

DEAR EDITOR: *POW!*

by Bob Rodi

As many of you undoubtedly know, probably no writer has had more letters published in the lettercols of DC and Marvel comics in recent years than Robert Rodi. For that reason, we asked Bob, who is a recent and welcome addition to our AHPA staff, to write an article on the subject of lettercol communications, in which many of you have expressed a keen interest. (Who could be better qualified than Readable Robert to give us the lowdown in this regard?) I think you will agree that his response is one of the finest essays on this topic ever to offer hope and guidance to comics fandom. A.T.

One of the worst things a comics-collector can do is to merely collect. Yet, there are some people out there who just don't realize that they do, indeed, have the power to change the industry, and get their names in print at the same time. Letter-writing is the key, whether you're on your way to becoming a critic, a comic-book writer-artist, or even simply a professional fan.

The thing that keeps most people from writing is forming an opinion... that first, difficult step. Most people aren't sure of what they think about the issue in question. I know I've experienced that feeling. The thing to do is get an initial gut reaction: after closing the book... How do you feel? If you feel good, chances are you've been entertained, and therefore, you've liked the book... If you feel bad, you haven't been entertained, and your time has been wasted. From there you can go on to specifics.

But what to do with those specifics? How do you put the letter together? Strangely enough, a lot depends on the editor, or whoever writes the lettercol. They have their own personal opinions as to what good and bad letters are.

For instance: Julius Schwartz' team of lettercol writers (Rozakis, Lillian, Bridwell, etc.) print letters with the "in" feel of fandom. If you can find a parallel between an issue of WONDER WOMAN and a short story by James Joyce, you've got it made. Murray Boltinoff, on the other hand, could care less about how much you've read into the story... very often, he'll only print one word from a LoC (example: "Fantastic!"). So, if you can't think of anything really mind-shattering to say, you might end up as only one line of a lettercol. Allan Asherman likes flowing rhetoric... Marvel lettercols like controversy and psychoanalysis... and, if I've missed anybody important, it shouldn't be too difficult to determine their favorite style. Just read past issues' lettercols.

The most important part of your letter is your first paragraph; more specifically, your first line. Try to resist the temptation to start off: "WONDER WOMAN #216 was good because..." Remember that these people have probably been reading letters all day, and if you can spark some interest with your first line, then they'll be inclined to follow your letter with much more enthusiasm.

There is a bit of difficulty when it comes to negative comments. Never, never write a poison pen letter. Getting too emotional over the whole deal immediately negates what you have to say. Point out the good points of the

issue as well as the bad... offer constructive criticism... deal out a few well-placed suggestions. In short, bury your gripe under other comments. The editor will appreciate your analysis, and he will still get the message, loud and clear.

Most people wonder, though, if he will do anything about it. Do editors really take what they read seriously? I'm inclined to think so, though I can't be sure. I know that letters, when printed, do affect the readers, who in turn, may send more letters of the same nature.

Take, for example, my first two letters to Marvel (in SPIDER-MAN #132 and AVENGERS #118). In them, I gave very thorough, but not overly-long, psychological profiles of Mary Jane Watson and the Scarlet Witch (respectively). You may have noticed that both ladies have appeared quite a lot recently. It may be ridiculous to say that I am responsible, but I like to think that I got the ball rolling. Other readers have done as much, if not more. So, if you do have interesting suggestions, and have favorite heroines you'd like to see revived (and there are MANY unemployed heroines), write in, because you never know how it'll turn out. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

There is also another type of letter... the novelty letter. I've written a few, and if you can write a good one, they are almost sure to be printed. My latest was printed in RIMA #5. I had already written a letter on RIMA (which was printed in #4) and I was at a loss to write another... a creative dry spell. So I wrote a novelty letter... I wrote that RIMA has no potential, then explained that she has no potential because she is already at her peak. It worked.

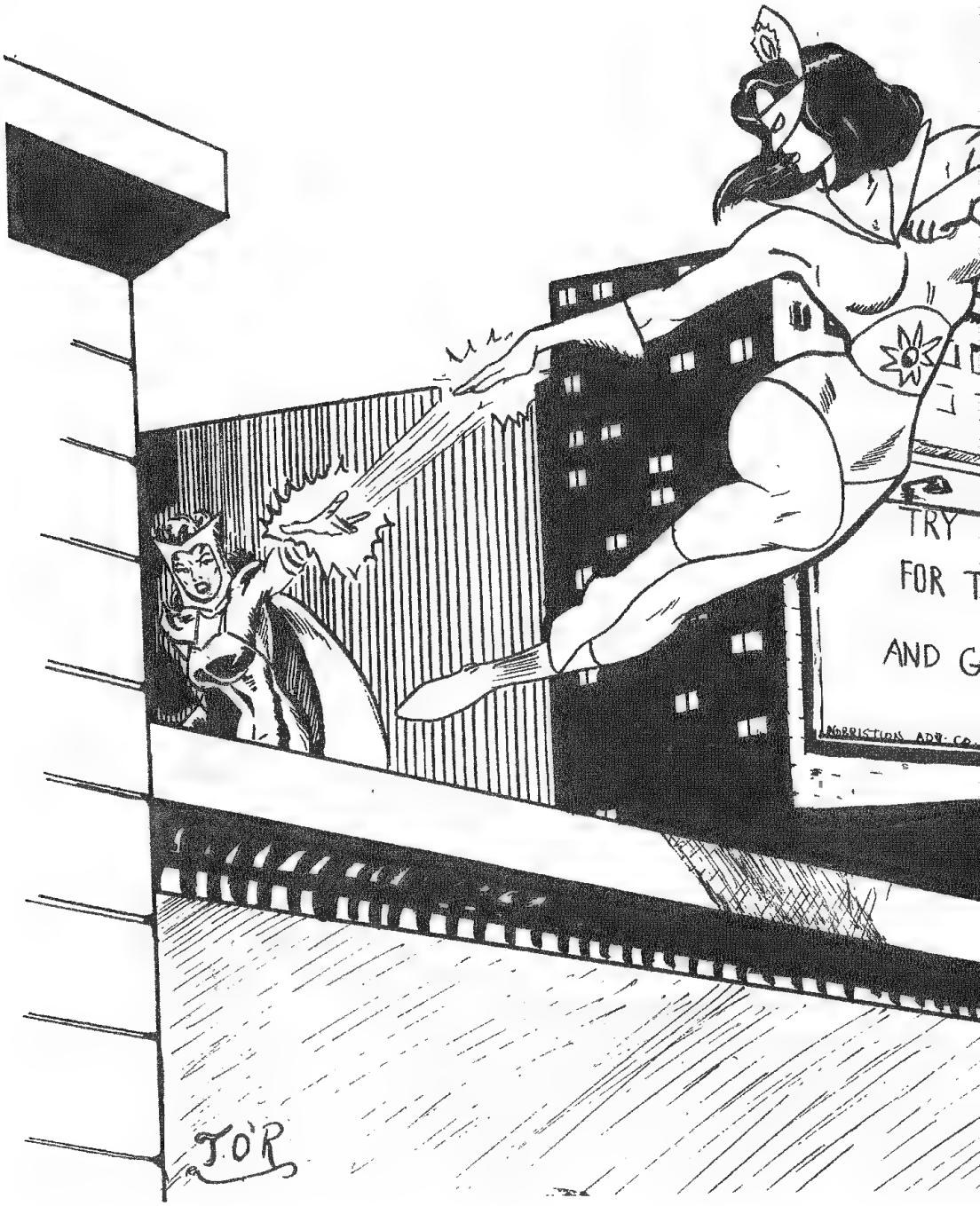
Another short matter: it is usually a waste of time to write about technical matters... for instance, the fact that Supergirl is only appearing twice a year in SUPERMAN FAMILY. The editors, writers, and artists usually have nothing to do with that. The man to write to is Carmine Infantino, or, if at Marvel, Stan Lee. They are the father-figures of the big companies and it's they you should work on.

Above all, let me stress the importance of writing, You have the right to speak you piece, as a fan and a consumer. And, it doesn't matter what you say... if you can say it interestingly enough, it has a chance of being printed. From there, who knows?

NOW LET'S WRITE!

To our knowledge, there has never been an organized, concentrated effort by adventure-heroine fans to let the comics publishers and editors know the extent of reader interest in the dazzling, daring damsels. That's where the CHFC can come into the picture! Our members can actively spearhead a thoughtful, but persistent and effective campaign to educate the comics industry. Not a bad idea, eh?

So write to those who make the decisions on DC, Marvel, Atlas, and Charlton comics and get your friends to write too! Whether your letters are published or not, they will help to make the point where it counts, in the publishing offices. If you mention the CHFC in your letters, that may help our campaign, for the growth and status of our club itself may prove convincing evidence of the enthusiasm which many readers have for comics heroines. (Chefac says she'll remind you all to write often, so I'm sure that whenever you see her, you'll be reminded. Right? Write! A.T.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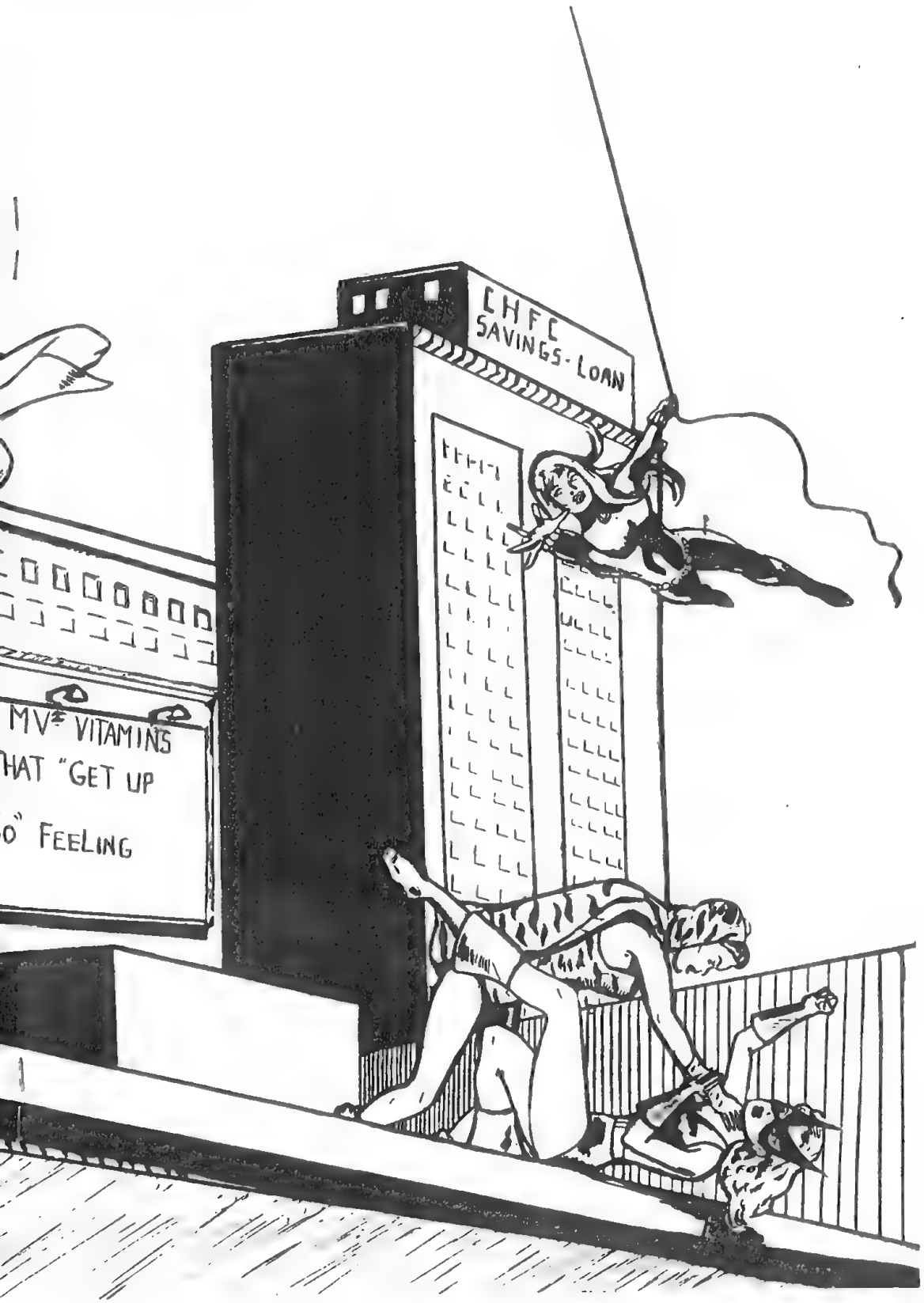

CHFC
SAVINGS-LOAN
MV VITAMINS
HAT "GET UP
O" FEELING

MARGINAL MUTTERINGS

by Dwayne Best

Since we have left 1974 behind us, perhaps it would be worthwhile to review some of the notable heroine-related events of the year. One of the greatest of these occurred in August, with the unveiling of a new heroine, Volcana Ash, in the pages of Marvel's Amazing Adventures 27. Personally I think this ranks as the biggest event of the year, and i haven't heard any unfavorable comments about her yet. I think she's been handled well, both from the writing and drawing end, and hope she continues to appear. But, as Bob Rodi pointed out to me, she can only appear in the Killraven strip, and if that goes, she goes with it. Do you need a better reason to buy Amazing Adv.?

*****

Another big event not far behind would have to be the editorial change in Wonder Woman. After eight issues of a pitiful attempt to restore the Golden Age Wonder Woman, someone finally decided to update her and restore her to her former glory. The Justice Leaguers are currently guest-starring to help sales to get better, but it won't be long before she's restored to the JLA and has her title all to herself.

*****

Of course, Volcana was not the only heroine to debut in '74. Liberty Belle made her appearance in E-Man 5, but was not met with riotous approval. She does have potential, though, and deserves another chance. Lilith, Dracula's daughter, showed up in Giant-Size Chillers 1 and then gained her own strip in her dad's black and white Dracula Lives. I don't consider her to be a true heroine, but she does seem to have a trace of goodness. Oh, yes, and Happy Birthday to Rima! Her comic is one year old this month.

*****

There were a few guest appearances by ladies like Zatanna, Crystal(her wedding!), Batgirl, and Shanna. Of course, the CHFC made its entrance into fandom and won the support of heroine fans everywhere. But, all seriousness aside, one of the biggest events was in the pages of Adventure. There, for the first time since her introduction, Mera wore yellow and pink suits instead of her customary green! Another tradition completely shattered!

*****

Dwayne Best ... 6 Nobile Lane
Poughkeepsie, New York 12603

CHFC Comics Awards

Final Voting For:

BEST HEROINE COSTUME

HEROINE MOST IN NEED OF REVIVAL

It's time to cast your final votes in these two categories for our CHFC national comics awards. You'll find below the candidates which have been nominated by our CHFC members. Among these nominees, which are *your* favorite heroines costumes? Which heroines would *you* most like to see the prozines revive now in new stories on a regular basis?

Nominations Now Wanted For:

BEST COMICS VILLAINESS

BEST HEROINE-COMICS EDITOR

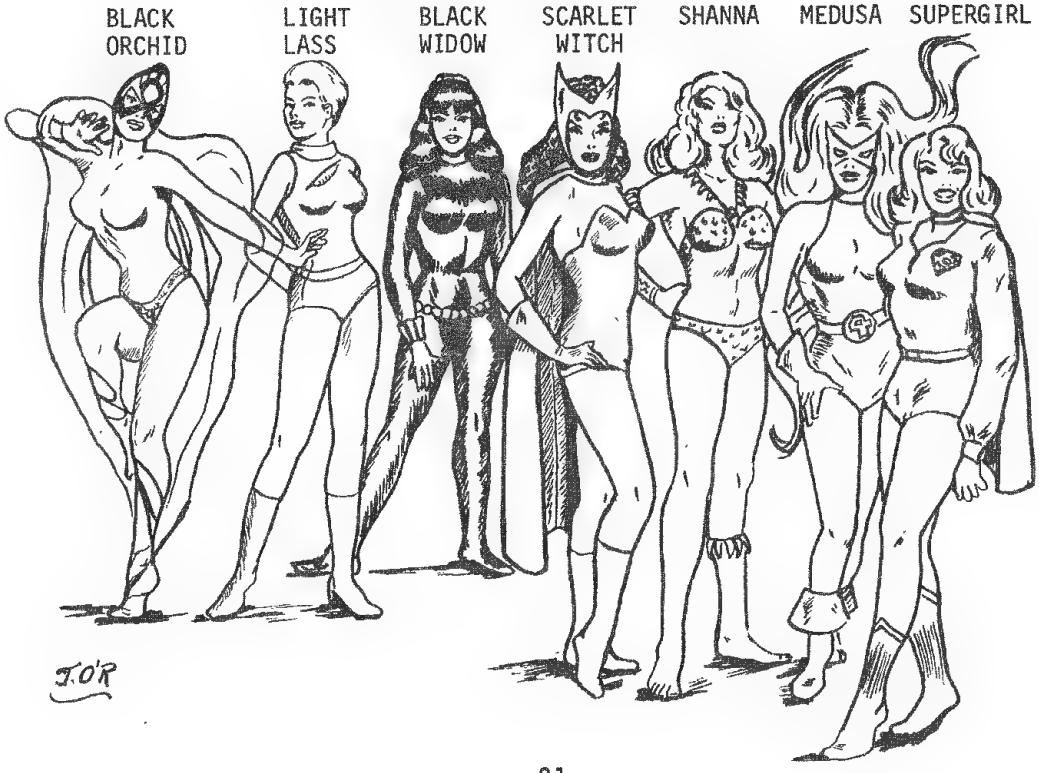
We hereby call for your nominations in two new categories for CHFC national comics awards. Of all the comics female evil-doers of the past and present, which have been *your* favorite villainesses? Which comics editors of the present or past do *you* feel have done the most to produce adventure-heroine comics of the kind *you* most enjoy?

Where your votes and your nominations are concerned, you may name THREE choices in EACH category, but be sure to indicate clearly which is your first, second and third choice. These will receive 5 points, 3 points, and one point respectively.

The DEADLINE DATE for all the categories listed above is March 1, 1975. Votes or nominations which we receive after that date, or which name candidates that are not eligible, or which are not legible and clear in intent, will be invalid.

Where final voting is concerned, you may vote only for candidates which have been nominated by our members (see below). "Write-in votes" for other candidates will be invalid.

NOMINEES FOR BEST COSTUME:



HEROINES for HEROINE most in need of REVIVAL!

BATGIRL

IN "DETECTIVE" COMICS 359 ON HER WAY TO A PARTY SHE BECAME A SUPER-HEROINE. APPEARED IN "BATMAN", B&B, "JLA", "WORLD'S FINEST" AND HER OWN STRIP "DETECTIVE" #384 & #424 - 4 YEARS! RECENTLY APPEARED IN "SUPERMAN" 268 AND 279.

SHEENA

QUEEN OF THE JUNGLE! APPEARED IN THE GOLDEN AGE COMIC - "JUNGLE ACTION," A FICTION HOUSE PUBLICATION.

THORN

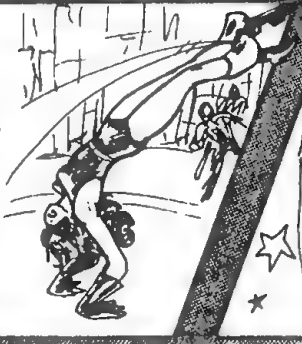
POSSESSOR OF A SPLIT ID - ROSE FORREST BY DAY, THE VENGEFUL THORN BY NIGHT. FIRST APPEARED IN "LOIS LANE" #105 AND HAD HER OWN STRIP THERE FOR SEVERAL ISSUES.

BATWOMAN

MADE HER DEBUT IN '56 WITH SIDEKICK BAT-GIRL (no relation to above) A FEW ISSUES LATER. BATWOMAN APPEARED IN "BATMAN," "DETECTIVE," AND "WORLD'S FINEST." GONE BY 1966.

BLACK CAT

A MOTORCYCLE RIDING JUDO EXPERT IN THE GOLDEN AGE "POCKET COMICS", "SPEEDCOMICS" AND HER OWN TITLE, ALL FROM HARVEY PUBS. SHE TEAMED UP WITH SHOCK GIBSON & CAPTAIN FREEDOM AND HER TITLE RAN FOR 30 ISSUES.



WONDER GIRL

AN ORPHAN ADOPTED BY THE AMAZONS AND GIVEN THEIR POWERS VIA PAULA'S PURPLE RAY. FROM "WONDER WOMAN" AND "TEEN TITANS" COMICS, A TEEN TITAN UNTIL 1970 AND THE MAG'S CANCELLATION.

WASP

1st APPEARANCE IN "TALES TO ASTONISH" WHERE SHE HAD HER OWN STRIP IN A FEW ISSUES. IN "AVENGERS" UNTIL SHE MARRIED GIANT-MAN. SHE WAS RECENTLY SEEN IN CAPTAIN MARVEL 35 & 37.

PHANTOM LADY

APPEARED OVER A SPAN OF 32 YEARS STARTING IN QUALITY COMICS "POLICE COMICS", ALSO IN A FOX PUB. '47-'49. 1955 - AJAX PUBS HAD A 4 ISSUE ADVENTURE. RECENTLY IN "J.L.A." 107 - 108.

Where new nominations are concerned, candidates from the "black-and-white" prozines are eligible, but we have reason to believe that they would receive relatively little voting support from our CHFC membership; and therefore we suggest that you consider the color comics primarily when making your nominations. Note also that we will eventually have some separate awards which will be specifically limited to the black-and-white field.

Be sure to take advantage of the chance to send us your votes and nominations in all categories. This is one of the ways in which we comics-heroines fans can tell the prozine publishers what we want...and your vote does count as an important part of "the voice of the CHFC"!

CLUB NEWS

(From page 7)

so already, let us know whether you'd be interested in this possibility. By the way, I should have made it clear in my outline of this idea in THA #2 that if we do publish a separate mimeo letterzine, it will be *in addition* to and *not instead of* our publication of fan letters in our regular THA lettercols. The point is that, through separate letterzines, many *more* of you could publically express and exchange many *more* thoughts and ideas than we can possibly fit into our THA lettercols. All letters would be considered first for publication in THA itself, but those which were not used there could be published in the CHFC letterzine. Please let Scott Gibson (see THA #2) and/or me know what you think of this letterzine concept....Hey, this is an appropriate spot to announce that Scott has recently been appointed as an AHPA associate editor. In case you aren't sure, that means that he, along with a.e. Ted Delorme and advertising manager Mercy Van Vlack, are now helping me to make the decisions where the basic policies and direction of the club are concerned, in line, of course, with the opinions which *all* of you CHFC members express.

We hope to finalize a plan for the "auctioning" (sale to the highest bidder) of original artwork which has been published (in reduced offset form) in AHPA zines. The original art is, of course, larger - much larger in the case of some of our cover and centerfold illos - than the printed version. And original art is, as you all know, of unique value in the comics collectors' market....Hang on: we'll be giving you a chance to acquire some of your favorite AHPA artists' original work.

Is someone out there keeping count of the number of illos of each comics character which appear in our THA issues? (I counted a total of nearly fifty character illos, counting duplications of a given character, in THA #2 alone!) I hope someone is keeping a list for future reference, because I honestly haven't had time to.

A special welcome to the gang at BBL Ranch, which has joined us as a collective CHFC member! How many of you are there at the good ol' BBL? Let us know what you think of Lasso Lass, an original Texas villainess (but as pretty as any heroine) who will be battling Blue Jay and Chickadee. Who knows? It may turn out, in future AHPA stories, that LL came from *Seabrook*, Texas! Then a lot of people who "never heard of Seabrook" will be changing their tune, right? (CC: Seabrook Chamber Of Commerce.)

As a rule, I let each THA issue speak for itself rather than calling attention to any of its specific features in my editor's column. But I have to make an exception in this case. *Don't fail* to read Bob Rodi's article on the principles of lettercol writing on page 16. In my opinion, it's a remarkable presentation of principles which, in many respects, are of value not only to writers of fan letters, but also to all serious *authors*! And I *know* you *won't* fail to notice pages 4, 5, 6, and 22, along with our THA #3 centerfold illo....Comics heroines fans, THA is *your thing*! Am I right?

DAUGHTERS OF

VAMPIRELLA

by Bob Rodi

Most comic book fans, and certainly those who are familiar with black & white comics, know about Vampirella, the sultry vampiress from another planet. Vampi, as she is known to her faithful devotees, was an immediate success when Warren Publishing launced her in her own magazine, entitled (what else?) Vampirella. Vampi still holds her own in that very magazine, and it is a testimony not only to a fine character but also to the first real touch of class that black & white comics ever had. One wonders why it took so long for others to see the success of Vampirella and realize that heroines in black and white magazines are much more successful than heroines in four-color comics.

It has, indeed, taken some time, but the trend has indeed caught on. For mystery-heroine lovers, Vampirella is not the only light on a news-stand of darkness. With Marvel's recent plunge into the black and white market, the discriminating heroine addict can take his/her choice of mystery heroines.

Perhaps the best of these is the Devil's daughter, Satana, who is now appearing in the Haunt of Horror. It is practically her own magazine...she shares it with a lack-luster exorcist character, Gabriel, but the true glory is always hers. Unlike her brother (who has his own strip in Marvel's Son of Satan series) Satana grew up in her father's service and only recently rejected him. It's very interesting reading that I highly recommend.

While Satana is the Devil's daughter, Devilina is his sister, who has set out to stop him from ruining her life in the new Atlas black and white magazine, Devilina. The story and art are by Ric Estrada, who is no stranger to super-heroine lore, having illustrated Wonder Woman for a few issues a year ago. Devilina, which bills itself as a magazine of "Illustrated stories of female-filled fantasy," keeps, for the most part, that promise...the first issue, aside from Devilina's origin, contained a a female mummy and a mermaid in remarkably good tales.

Tigra the Were-Woman, once the super-heroine called the Cat, was changed to her were-self in Giant-Size Creatures #1, and heroine lovers took Marvel to task for it. However, Tigra's second appearance, in Monsters Unleashed #10, contained a savage, sexy Tigra. So good was Tony deZuniga's remake of her, that the possibilites of a series for Tigra are rising. Tigra is possibly the most unique mystery heroine in any black and white, and if you haven't picked up Monsters Unleashed #10 yet, by all means, do.

Lilith, who has the dubious honor of being Dracula's only daughter, is a vampiress with a difference...she was cursed to her fate by a gypsy enemy of Dracula, and thus does not have all the restrictions that inhibit her father and his minions. The most startling thing about her is her other "identity"... she shares the body of a young girl, Angel O'Hara, who is not even aware of Lilith's existence. Lilith has finally found a permanant home in her father's black and white magazine, entitled Dracula Lives! It looks as though there are quite a few interesting things in store for Lilith, including Angel O'Hara's pregnancy. It seems like a potentially fascinating strip...you should definitely read it.

Red Sonja, the fetching warrior woman who was catapulted to fame by her appearances in Conan the Barbarian, made her first (and, regrettably, her last) black and white solo in the Savage Sword of Conan #1, in which she also co-starred in another tale, with Conan. Reader reaction was very good, very enthusiastic, and I wouldn't be surprised if the She-Devil of Hykrania did indeed pop up in another black and white tale one of these days.

Speaking of She-Devils...the most famous, Shanna, ought to be familiar to you by now. If not, see the detailed outline of her career in The Heroine Addict #1. There is an important update to that outline...the lovely Dr. O'Hara guest-starred in Savage Tales #8, in a Hidden Jungle adventure with Ka-Zar and his sometime girl-friend, Bobbi Morse. As it turns out, that tale was only to whet our appetite for Savage Tales #9, which features Shanna in her own solo black and white adventure... that is, if Marvel doesn't miss it's deadline again. Shanna just may earn herself a series in that magazine...high sales and a small mountain of mail would certainly help. But of course, I guess that could go for any of the heroines in black and white comics...if you aren't familiar with them, I think you might be pleasantly surprised at the quality of their adventures.

Poor Vampi! No wonder she's pouting. She's no longer unique. But, she still has a claim to fame...she was the first black and white magazine heroine, and without her success, it's unlikely that the others would have ever come to be. As far as black and white heroines go, she is the Mother of them all.

Dear Al,

Just as you promised, THA #2 was indeed "bigger and better." Certainly $1 isn't too much to pay for 36 pages of interesting articles and art. I'm looking forward to the fiction and, if possible, letterzines.

Once again, "Hit Or Miss" was well-researched and informative. Actually, Charlton's Liberty Belle is the *second* heroine to bear this name; the original Liberty Belle was a DC character of the Golden Age.

"Artist's Forum" shows signs of becoming a very useful feature. Mercy Van Vlack, a personal friend as well as a talented artist, did wonders with the Avengers Gals (not to mention Chefac!)

I'm beginning to wonder if you aren't starting *too* many regular columns, without enough room for individual articles; but "The Heroine Review" once again was one of the best, and "Vault Of Villainesses," "Spare Parts," and "Marginal Mutterings" all provided food for thought. Some might claim that *two* reviews of the Wonder Woman TV movie were redundant, but I think they provided an interesting contrast.

I never said I had anything against Batgirl personally--just that she wasn't usually handled very well, especially in some of those cliffhanger serials in the back of DETECTIVE. Actually, I thought the early Fox stories and the Maggin teamups with Superman were quite good.

Rich Morrissey
Framingham, Mass.
BATMANIA editor

Okay, Rich. We weren't trying to stir up a Batgirl controversy with our reply in the THA #2 lettercol. We just couldn't resist that little dig with the illo. Thanks for your comments.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Dear Al,

While I haven't had a chance to read THA #2 from cover to cover, I'm nevertheless *mightily* impressed. Layout and general appearance are excellent, though I think you're aware that the overall quality of the art could use some improvement. There were some beautiful pieces (pp. 6, 8, 14, and 34 to name some) and some mediocre ones, but none detracted from the issue.

Harry Broertjes
Evanston, Ill.
OUTPOST editor

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Dear Al,

Enclosed are some spot illos and a full-page item. I'm working on some action poses, but I'd like to wait on those until my sister the model can pose for me....About the fiction zine: I'm hard at work on my S&S twins, which will be an illustrated short story.

Yes, Light Lass' costume is my design, altered just a bit by Dave Cockrum. He had one already designed for her, but when I pointed out that Garth and Ayla dressed similarly, he threw his design out and added mine, which matched Lightning Lad's.

As for THA #2 -- FANTASTIC! I particularly enjoyed the origin and history articles, which were extremely well-written and interesting. Mercy and Dwayne's "Spotlight" was beyond words: here we had both a lively history *and* fantastic, abounding art! I also like the inclusion of villainesses in THA; they're as interesting as the heroines. Please keep them in the zine!

Carol Strickland
Fayetteville, NC

As you readers can see, Strick, like all our staff members, is a very busy, productive and creative person.

She's now planning a special wrap-around cover for THA which should be a gem!...And here, fellow Wonder Girl fans, is one of the spot illos she mentioned in her letter.

Friends,

I saw your ad in THE NOSTALGIA JOURNAL, and I'd like some more information about your club. Specifically: what is your basic point of view toward the comics heroines? Will they be dealt with as super-individuals or just as pin-up material? The accompanying drawing [Mercy's illo of Senorita Rio in the ad] doesn't seem overly encouraging to liberated persons. Sorry if I sound a bit suspicious....Thanks for listening.

Naomi Basner
Bronx, NY

The question you raise is a very important one, Naomi, and is also too complex to be answered briefly here. Part of the answer is that no two AHPA staff members have identical "basic points of view toward the heroines," so in our publications you may see a variety of attitudes represented. Of course I, as editor, do have certain basic tenets which I will be sure are followed, but I also respect the opinions and values of the many mature, responsible people on our staff.

I have asked Joanna Moore to respond to your letter because I think it would be a good idea for all of us to hear from one of the women on the AHPA staff regarding your question. Here is Joanna's reply:

Dear Naomi,

I was given the pleasure of answering your letter because I am rather typcal of the CHFC staff and general members.

The CHFC is concerned with presenting the heroines as not only attractive, intelligent and adult women, but more important, as unique and wonderful human beings with feelings and emotions like you or I have.

Heroines are girls like you or me, who have been gifted with the ability to help people in an unconventional manner, and who are loved and admired in spite of their unusual abilities.

As a whole, the CHFC is neither feminist nor sexist, but that's because of the many fine people who make up the CHFC. They are the CHFC!

With all the vulgarity in fandom and elsewhere, it is a true pleasure to read something that is sophisticated enough for my own tastes and wholesome enough for me to pass on to my own children if I am ever blessed with them.

I have enclosed the information you have requested , plus a centre-section from THA #1, to give you some idea of how these publications are presented to our members and readers.

But the only way you'll really know what the CHFC is all about is to join it. I hope you do, because I can tell that you are a very mature and sincere person, and I would be very honoured to have you for a sister member.

Your friend,
Joanna Moore

(NOTE: Naomi received this reply personally by mail, and since then she has indeed joined the CHFC.)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Al,

I had no comments for THA #1 other than great....THA #2 was another matter - and amazingly it was mostly you. One of the stands that the club took, at least in the Contributor's Handbook, was the one about obscenity, and it was a good one. Unfortunately what does the unsuspecting reader find on the first page of your editorial? And then you proceed to tell us that you aren't doing what you are.

No, it doesn't offend me; I've heard a lot worse just bumping into the wrong person at school. But it does make it quite easy to place in the category of undergrounds - a connotation that *(Continued on page 31)*

HOW ABOUT A LITTLE *HELP!*

The CHFC is an active organization in which many fans are directly involved. Not everyone can be a staff writer or artist, but we do want to offer other members a wide variety of opportunities to take an active part in what is happening. If you would like to help to further your club's development, here are a few ways in which you might lend a useful hand. Let us know if you can.

WE NEED FANZINE REPORTERS *to send us, for mention in THA, clippings or quotations from fanzines and other publications which would be of interest to our CHFC readers. These should be people who subscribe to several major fanzines and have wide interests in the comics field.*

WE NEED DISTRIBUTORS *who will sell (or make arrangements for the sale of) copies of THA and THE ADVENTURESS directly to non-members. Since you can obtain copies in quantity at a discounted price, you can make a profit in this role.*

WE NEED GOOD TYPISTS *to lay out and re-type material for our AHPA fiction magazine. An efficient fan-typist should find this an interesting form of involvement in the publishing scene! Requirements: (1) a typewriter which can produce clear, dark type; (2) the ability to proofread efficiently and make accurate corrections of errors in spelling, punctuation, spacing, etc.; (3) the ability to type proficiently in a page format which will be clearly described. We will repay your expenses.*

WE NEED COMICS-CONVENTION REPRESENTATIVES *to help publicize and promote the CHFC and comics heroines. Let us know if you are planning to attend a comics convention. We will provide materials for your use.*

WE NEED SUPPORT IN OUR CHFC CAMPAIGN *to get the comics publishers to use adventure heroines more frequently and with more-appropriate emphasis. We urge all members to write often to the editors at National, Marvel, Seaboard (Atlas), and Charlton!*

The Picture From Here:

A LOVE-LY SHOW

BY BOB RODI

At it's best, ABC's crime drama Get Christy Love! is fun, exciting, and sometimes even warm...at it's occasional worst, it is dull, melodramatic, and clumsy. This is, however, going to be a good review...after all, taking the bitter with the sweet, Get Christy Love! has two things which distinguish it from other crime dramas... one is the obvious heroine-centered format...and the other is Teresa Graves, the latest Laugh-In alumnus to make it big.

The plots are certainly not the saving grace of the show. It is certainly obvious to those of you reading this that comic writers have more imagination in their left earlobe than most television writers have collectively. Christy's plots, on the whole, are no more, no less than those of her fellow law enforcers, Columbo, Ironside, etc.

Ms. Grave's supporting cast is one of the most unmemorable ever assembled in one show. Charles Cioffi is the only real regular, and he acts as though he is fighting off an attack of rigormortis.

But Ms. Graves herself...a very talented, sexy, sassy lady, a strident but charming personality. She makes Christy Love a whirlwind. She's just plain fun to watch. She may resort to mugging just a wee bit to much, but who doesn't, especially on TV? One can forgive almost anything when witnessing the deadpan cool with which Ms. Graves can deliver a one-liner. She can take the most disgraceful pun and make it fast, fresh, and funny.

The character of Christy Love, L.A.P.D., is very much like that of James Bond. Witty in the face of death, irresistable in moments of crisis, charismatic in times of peril...and exciting all the time. She is self-confident, of course, another Bond trait...and she also comes out of any situation looking like she had never gone in (in the first episode, her sleeves ripped, nothing else).

The fight scenes are a little stagey...one can easily spot the studio-rehearsed hi-jinks, and it's nothing like the choreographed violence (albeit campy violence) in TV's old Batman show.

When allowed to carry the ball herself, Ms. Graves makes Christy a series worth anybody's time...when she's batted around like a pinball by rotten actors and silly plot devices, it's not worth beans. Christy is a star vehicle, and Teresa is...the star.

So far I've had little response to my first column, but what I do have should be of interest and should be helpful.

I'll continue on for now with the obvious concerns of the comic artist. Last issue I mentioned the materials that are used for comic art, but more important is the work itself.

I feel it's important that one does not draw entirely from comics, but from real life and photos as much as possible. I've recieved a letter from Tom O'Reilly in which he mentions the same thing and offers some suggestions I believe are helpful: "Drawing from photos can help give one a realistic approach to artwork. Copy sketching from comics leads a person to rely too heavily on swipes." He specifically suggests Seventeen magazine for drawing from. "The color photography in it is great with lots of poses and plenty of pretty faces to sketch." I myself enjoy drawing from the large catalogs such as Sears and Montgomery Wards. Besides the many faces and full-length figures, they have all kinds of furniture, draperies, household appliances, etc. that, when incorporated into a drawing, add a great deal of realism. See the illustration below:

INTERIOR FROM CATALOG

Another great "swipe book" is National Geographic magazine. It has many fantastic settings and several expressive faces each issue.

Also, the last time I mentioned the Loomis and Bridgeman life drawing books. Tom O'Reilly has another book to add to the list. "As far as I'm concerned, there is no better book than this one. It's called Drawing the Head and Figure by Jack Hamm. There is a soft bound version available from Grosset & Dunlap in New York for $1.95. Everything is covered down to the last detail. It's really a great book and I'd like to recommend it a thousand percent." Judging from Tom's work, I'm sure he knows

what he's talking about.

To finish up this column for this issue, I'd like to add a brief remark about pencilling and inking. I feel that an artist shouldn't bother with inking until he's satisfied with his pencil work. When you feel you should try inking, keep in mind that the pencil drawing must be as finished and detailed as it would be if you were not going to ink it. Too many people believe that an artist sketches the pencilwork and tightens up in the inking. This is done on occasions, but quite rarely. When I've seen original pencil pages by the pros, they have been some of the most fantastically drawn illustrations I've ever seen. If anything, they are generally more detailed and better, overall, in pencil than after they are inked. Below is an example of what I mean by "rough" and "tight" drawing:

Rough Sketch

Tight Drawing

GUIDE LINES, IF USED SHOULD BE DRAWN LIGHTLY ENOUGH SO THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION AS TO WHAT IS TO BE INKED, AND WHAT IS NOT!

Again, send all comments regarding the commercial art field to:

AHPA Artist's Forum
c/o Tom Luth
2543 Sunnyside Ridge Rd.
Palos Verdes Pen., Calif. 90274

LETTERS

(Continued from page 27)

isn't deserved. I know quite a few places that don't look too highly on anything like that.

Question: Will Vampi be considered a heroine? Although she is poorly written and her latest artist visualizes her a little strangely, she is a pretty good character.

Question: How many gals are in the CHFC, including all non-partial names?

Enclosed are two "articles." One is on the first Supergirl, the second is another look at the relationship between Lois Lane and Supie. If anything bugs you, remember that the editor of any 'zine has the right to rewrite, condense, cut or not use anything he receives. Hello, cicular file.

Enclosed will also be some illos that I very much doubt that you will be able to use....Hello, circular file.

If you're a Legion freak, I feel sorry for you. The first story of the year is again by Bates and is a bomb.

Valeria
Wilmington, Dela.

Thanks for your long and interesting letter, Valeria. (As per your request, we will not publish your last name.)

In my THA #2 column, I took it for granted that our readers would know the difference between profanity and obscenity. Actually, I think almost everyone today feels that an occasional usefully-employed "damn" or "hell" (that's profanity) is more to the point than words such as "darn" and "heck," which have come to sound rather quaintly prudish in contemporary writing in any field other than children's literature. Obscenity is another matter (consult your dictionary), and that is what I referred to when I said that "we'll continue to leave the kid stuff out of our AHPA zines." I think most mature people agree (Continued on page 35)

What A Sight!

BY JEFF THOMPSON

If you saw an entirely bald woman walking down the street, what would your reaction be? Hideous? A weirdo? Sympathy? Most people would react negatively to a sight like that. Isn't it intriguing then that a hairless heroine has taken the comics world by storm - Moon Dragon.

This character who became famous during the spectacular Thanos saga in Mavel Comics' CAPTAIN MARVEL is very attractive to many readers, despite her peculiar appearance which might have served to turn some people off. What is it about this female's looks or character which makes her still popular and appealing even though she has been in limbo for six months already? Draw your own conclusions from the following information about this stunning priestess of Titan, Saturn's largest moon.

Moon Dragon first appeared in IRON MAN #54 (January, 1973) under the villainous name of Madame MacEvil. In this issue she secretly instigates a violent confrontation between Iron Man and the Sub-Mariner for reasons unknown. In her initial appearance here her costume was brown except for an orange cloak. She only was seen once more in this brown and orange outfit; after that her same costume was completely green.

In this issue Madame MacEvil has with her in her undersea hideout a vocal computer which gives her the name of Madame MacEvil. She has a continuous banter with this machine that considers itself her superior. Author Mike Friedrich almost uses the Madame in a comical vein. The artists in IRON MAN #54 were George Tuska and Vince Coletta.

Madame MacEvil was not captured by the Golden Avenger or Prince Namor since neither of them knew that she was behind their forced battle. On the last page of the magazine a caption reads, "But when the mysterious Madame MacEvil makes her comeback, maybe we'll even recount her awesome origin - and how she became a feminine version of Yul Brynner!"

She is not seen again until DAREDEVIL #105 (November, 1973). At the outset of this issue Daredevil is tossed off a seaside cliff by Kraven the Hunter and before he hits the churning waters below he is beamed to the undersea sanctum of Madame MacEvil, as that computer in IRON MAN #54 dubbed her. She suspects that Daredevil is a "Thanos-Thrall," her foe, until she probes his mind with her uncanny mental powers and discovers the truth.

Marvel's aforementioned promise made in the fifty-fourth issue of IRON MAN was kept in this issue of DAREDEVIL, Moon Dragon's very next appearance. Moon Dragon recounts her origin to Daredevil and it follows.

The time was the early 1950's, an era of post-war jubilation and everything but preoccupation with UFO's, as in the 1970's. It certainly was a shock when the space vehicle of Thanos, powermad son of Mentor (the ruler of Titan), was spotted hovering low over Earth by Art and Yvette Douglas and their small, blonde daughter Heather - an Earth family travelling in their automobile. The malevolent Thanos, who was on his first scouting mission to our planet, demanded secrecy and blasted the car with a ray from his ship. The married couple was killed, but, unbeknownst to the Titan, little Heather survived and stumbled away from the flaming wreckage. Suddenly, Emlot, aide to Mentor (Titan's emperor and father to Thanos), appeared on Earth beside the child and took her back to Titan with him. The girl resided at the royal home of Mentor and his wife Kazantra for her initial days on Titan. Then

Heather was sent to the Shao-Lom Monastery where her head was shaved and she grew in mind and body. The priests in the ancient citadel named her Moon Dragon, after the cosmos-slithering beast of interstellar legend. Moon Dragon became Titan's foremost woman athlete and her most renowned geneticist as well.

When Moon was in her twenties, Mentor's evil son Thanos overthrew his parent and proceeded to destroy the Shao-Lom Monastery, leaving Moon Dragon a sole surivor for the second tragic time in her young life. Moon swore vengeance and hourneyed to her native world, Earth. At first she only intended to further her genetic experiments when she arrived here.

Soon she discovered that Thanos had agents (Thanos-Thralls) on this world and realized that the Titan tyrant wanted Earth, too! Moon Dragon searched for a type of Earthling who could best wage war on Thanos and his intergalactic minions. She forced Iron Man and Sub-Mariner to battle in IRON MAN #54 simply to observe their fighting skills. The art on Moon Dragon's origin sequence in this issue of DAREDEVIL was done by Jim Starlin; all other art, by Don Heck and Don Perlin. All of Moon Dragon's appearances in DAREDEVIL were scripted by Steve Gerber.

Also, we discover in DAREDEVIL #105 that Moon believes San Francisco to be Thanos-controlled and she sets out to "cleanse" the metropolis through her "creations" - the Dark Messiah, Ramrod, Angar the Screamer, and the emerald behemoth Terrex. Moon had allied herself with San Francisco's foremost lawyer, Kerwin Broderick. Moon Dragon had sought him out because of his fine reputation. Reputation, yes - but Broderick is actually a criminal with mad dreams of world domination! Kerwin Broderick double-crosses Moon Dragon and shoots her at the close of the magazine.

In all of her appearances to date, the only issue whose cover has featured Moon Dragon is DAREDEVIL #105. On the cover she is depicted in her brown and orange Madame MacEvil costume.

Still alive by sheer willpower alone by the time DAREDEVIL #106 (December, 1973) rolls around, Moon Dragon pleads with Daredevil to get her to the "regenesis lab" in her marine fortress. In the lab is a metal slab and a control panel. Moon asks DD to lay her down and turn the yellow dial on the panel. DD confesses his blindness to Moon Dragon. The priestess of Titan, exhausting almost all of her remaining mental strength, endows Daredevil with vision! He then saves Moon Dragon and the pair is transported to the City by the Bay, where the Dark Messiah, Ramrod, Angar the Screamer, Terrex, and Kerwin Broderick are on the loose.

When Daredevil is faced with this monumental battle, he implores Moon Dragon to make him blind again, as his ultra-sharp radar senses had disappeared when he was sighted. He tells Moon that "...I've seen Natasha. That's what I wanted most of all." Of course, "Natasha" is Ms. Natasha Romanoff - Daredevil's partner, the Black Widow. Moon summons her vast mental powers and blinds DD. tears brimming in her eyes. "...Recall the sight of me, also," she pleads with him. Then the Man Without Fear and the Black Widow overcome the Dark Messiah and Ramrod. This issue was penciled by Don Heck and inked by Sal Trapani.

Terrex goes on a rampage in DAREDEVIL #107 (January, 1974) in which two enemies of Thanos meet each other - Moon Dragon and Captain Marvel.

In order to defeat Terrex, Moon employs the illusion-casting ability of Angar the Screamer. She puts her own mental powers into play and concocts, through Angar, a devastating mirage of "Un-Life" which destroys the monster. The artistic credits go to Bob Brown and Sal Buscema.

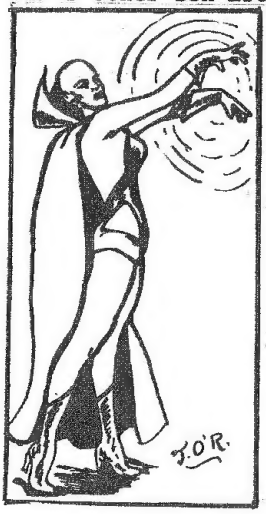
Daredevil's dubious relationship with Moon Dragon, his house guest, sparks an argument between the Man Without Fear and the Black Widow, who loves him, in DAREDEVIL #108 (March, 1974). The quarrel hardly is settled before DD hears of a sniper's attempted murder of New York district attorney Foggy Nelson, lawyer Matt (DD) Murdock's closest friend. Daredevil sets out for the Big Apple in Moon Dragon's spacecraft piloted by her. This is the couple's bittersweet good-bye, as Moon advises DD to forget his infatuation for her. Her reason for their parting is their "...respective orientations toward life and the cosmos." Tears filling her eyes once more, she confesses, "I believe I have come to love you, DD, but the heavens stand between us...forever."

Upon arriving in New York, Daredevil bolts from the sleek cruiser and Moon Dragon swoops out of his life, heading toward a time of meditation in deep space - and (summarily) into the life of the Kree warrior, Captain Marvel. DAREDEVIL #108's illustrators were Bob Brown and Paul Gulacy.

Moon Dragon returns from her cogitative sojourn in space and her aid is enlisted by Captain Marvel in CAPTAIN MARVEL #31 (March, 1974), Moon Dragon's next appearance. They go to Avengers' Mansion to hold a council of war against Thanos with the mighty assemblers and the Destroyer, who was once Art Douglas, Moon Dragon's father!

Miraculously, Captain Marvel, Iron Man, the Destroyer, and Moon Dragon are transported by Thanos from the Avengers' stronghold to his lair on Titan. Moon Dragon and Thanos engage in a battering, endless mind war, which Thanos finally wins. After that the Titan unleashes the power of the arcane Cosmic Cube and becomes an insane god! This issue was scripted and penciled by Jim Starlin and inked by Dan Green and Al Milgrom.

Moon Dragon has a very limited appearance in the thirty-second issue of CAPTAIN MARVEL (May, 1974) because she is put out of action early in the game. The Destroyer, crazed with anger, causes an explosion in Thanos' fortress where Captain Marvel, Moon Dragon, Iron Man, the Destroyer, Mentor, and Mentor's other son Eros are. Moon suffers a head injury due to a sharp bit of flying debris and is taken away to be cared for by Mentor. CAPTAIN MARVEL #32 was plotted and drawn by Jim Starlin, scripted by Mike Friedrich (who also wrote IRON MAN #54, Moon's initial appearance), and inked by Dan Green.



Moon Dragon, her head bandaged, only appears in one brief scene with Mentor in CAPTAIN MARVEL #33 (July, 1974). It is quoted below in its entirety. Also in this issue Thanos is finally defeated by Captain Marvel, who is aided by another thrilling comics heroine, Mantis. You can find her in THE AVENGERS. This issue was plotted, penciled and colored by Jim Starlin, scripted by Steve Englehart, and Klaus Janson supplied the inks.

CAPTION: In one part of the galaxy, the Avengers vanish, lost between seconds...while, in another part - Mentor and the priestess Moon Dragon stride forth into an underground prison!

MOON DRAGON: My headache fades, leader. Your care has aided me greatly.

MENTOR: Thank you, Moon Dragon. I am pleased. But come - before Thanos returns - we have a task to perform! Here is the reason my other son, Eros, and I braved Thanos' observatory, though we knew our probable fate! Here is the reason I fight this war - the reason I live my life!

MOON DRAGON: Leader! By Kronos! These are our people - the original Titans!

MENTOR: Aye! The 17 Titans left from the 114 who had lived here in freedom before Thanos attacked! If all seventeen survived this treatment! Olympus attend me, he is my son - but I pray Thanos be crushed!

Moon Dragon's final appearance to date was CAPTAIN MARVEL #34 (September, 1974). She is seen in only one panel. Mentor alludes to the fact that Moon has returned to the Shao-Lom Monastery (now spelled Shao-Lin) for a period of contemplation. This issue, which wrapped up the Thanos epic began in CAPTAIN MARVEL #25 (March, 1973) was plotted, drawn, and colored by Jim Starlin, scripted by Steve Englehart, and inked by Jack Abel.

Moon Dragon, an intriguing character and one of my very favorite comics females, has been in limbo for about six months now. I hope this article has interested you - or reinterested you - in this heroine, since she happily will be returning very soon in Marvel's THE AVENGERS magazine. The issue in which she reappears might be out by the time you read this. I supposed that Marvel realized that sweeping this fantastic woman under Oblivion Rug and forgetting her would be a sin

LETTERS

(Continued from page 31)

that it is both childish and ineffectual when a writer finds it necessary to resort to vulgar obscenities as a means of expressing his feelings.

From what I've heard, Vampirella is definitely considered a heroine. (And see page 24 of this issue!)

Approximately eighteen per cent of the constantly increasing membership of the CHFC are girls or women. From what knowledgeable sources tell me, active comics fandom in general includes about this same female ratio. What conclusions do you draw from that? We'd like to know. (The comics publishers would like to know the answer too, I imagine!)

Don't worry, Valeria, I'm fully aware of my prerogatives as editor. I've received many contributions for THA which I have not published for various reasons. On the other hand, I have not (as yet) rewritten, condensed or cut any article or column which I have published. In general, I think that, at least in the fanzine field, an author deserves to have his creative statement either accepted or rejected in its entirety. (This can not apply, for obvious reasons, to letters published in our lettercol.)

Hey, Valeria, I really like your "first Supergirl" article and I hope to place it in a THA issue soon, illustrated by one of our staff artists! I'm holding your illos and your other brief article in reserve for possible publication too. (They made the reserve file, not the "circular file.")

I'm not a Legion freak by any means, as Harry (TLO) Broertjes well knows, but that doesn't mean I'm not interested in your comments in re the Legion. Sorry I couldn't publish your whole letter here, but...Well, I'm sure you understand.

OUR LETTERCOL

I hope these past two THA issues have made all of you aware of the kinds of letters I like to receive and publish. And I hope these are the kinds of letters you like to write - and will write!

What do you like and dislike about the prozines' handling of comics-heroine stories and artwork? What do you think of our AHPA's efforts to bring you the kinds of adventure-heroine material you want, and which the comics publishers are, apparently, largely ignoring? AT

SENIOREH...
EMOC KCAB!!